

Table 1. Geographic Priority Areas by Species and Life History Stage.

		Adult Holding and Upstream Migration		Spawning through Emergence		Juvenile Rearing (post-emergence and summer)		Juvenile Rearing (Winter)		Juvenile Rearing (Estuarine/Nearshore Marine)	
		High Priority	Priority	High Priority	Priority	High Priority	Priority	High Priority	Priority	High Priority	Priority
Priority Species	South Fork native chinook	South Fork RM 0-31.5 ¹	Mainstem Nooksack ²	South Fork RM 14.3-25 ¹⁶	South Fork RM 0-23.9, 30.4-31.5 ⁴	South Fork RM 0-30.4, including secondary channels within the active channel ¹	Mainstem RM 23.6-36.5, including secondary channels within the active channel ⁹	South Fork RM 0-30.4, including associated floodplain habitats and lower ends of tributaries ^{3,7}	Mainstem RM 23.6-36.5, including associated floodplain habitats and lower ends of tributaries ^{6,7}	Lummi and Nooksack River estuaries and Bellingham Bay	
	North Fork native chinook (includes Middle Fork)	Mainstem/North Fork RM 30-45 ⁵ ; Diversion Dam ⁷	Mainstem and North Fork Nooksack RM 0-30; 45-65 ¹⁵ ; Middle Fork 0-6	North Fork RM 44.8-63.9, Middle Fork 0-6; Maple, Canyon, Cornell, Boyd, and McDonald Creeks ⁸	North Fork RM 36.5-44.8, 63.9-65 ¹¹		Mainstem/North Fork RM 23.6-55, including side channels and sloughs within the active channel ¹²		Mainstem/North Fork RM 23.6-55, including associated floodplain habitats and lower ends of tributaries ¹³	Lummi and Nooksack River estuaries and Bellingham Bay ¹⁴	
	Nooksack bull trout (native char)		Known spawning distribution plus contiguous reaches downstream (mainstem and lower reaches of forks)		North Fork RM 49.7-65 and associated tributaries; South Fork RM 14.3-37.3; Middle Fork RM 0-17.3, Wells, Deadhorse, Canyon, Bell, Wanlick, Howard, Ridley, Rankin, Green and Clearwater Creeks ¹⁴ ; Skookum Creek ¹⁵	Known spawning distribution	Contiguous reaches downstream of known spawning distribution (mainstem and lower reaches of forks)	Known spawning distribution	Contiguous reaches downstream of known spawning distribution (mainstem and lower reaches of forks)	Unknown	Unknown
	Nooksack natural-spawning coho	Refer to fish distribution map	Refer to fish distribution map	Demonstrated consistent spawning areas	Refer to fish distribution map		Mainstem, tributary and floodplain habitats		Floodplain habitats		
	Nooksack native fall chum		Known spawning distribution plus contiguous reaches downstream (mainstem and lower reaches of forks)	North Fork RM 41-46, Kendall Creek (RM 0-0.1), Kenny Creek (RM 0-0.5) ¹⁶ ; Pettigrew Slough (~South Fork RM 12) ¹⁷	side channels in South Fork RM 9-12; remainder of North Fork RM 36.5-62; side channels in Middle Fork RM 0 - 6.0 ³					Lummi and Nooksack River estuaries and Bellingham Bay ¹³	
	Nooksack pink salmon		Known spawning distribution plus contiguous reaches downstream (mainstem and lower reaches of forks)	Thompson Creek RM 0-1.6 ¹⁶	North Fork RM 36.5-65, Middle Fork RM 0-7.2, and accessible tributaries; South Fork RM 0-25 and accessible tributaries ¹ Maple, Canyon, Gallop, Cornell creeks ¹⁶					Lummi and Nooksack River estuaries and Bellingham Bay ¹³	

1 Temperature and low flows is a concern to this life stage throughout the entire accessible South Fork.
2 The mainstem serves as a migration corridor for both North and South Fork chinook.
3 SASSI 1994
4 Ranges constitute the remainder of South Fork accessible for spawning chinook.
5 Includes heaviest spawning areas downstream to confluence with North Fork (since rearing juveniles generally redistribute downstream after emergence).
6 The reach of the mainstem from Everson to the confluence at Denning is generally considered to be more unconfined, with greater habitat complexity, than the remaining reaches.
7 Chinook may penetrate further into the floodplain during the higher flows of the overwinter rearing period.
8 WDFW, unpublished snorkel survey data, 1979-1986
9 Middle Fork Nooksack Anadromous Salmonid Potential Upstream of Diversion Dam (Currence 2000).
10 Remainder of migration corridor for spawning North Fork Chinook.
11 Ranges constitute the remainder of North Fork accessible for spawning chinook.
12 Evidence indicates higher percentages of South Fork Chinook than North Fork chinook outmigrate as yearlings (55-67% in South Fork vs. 5% in North Fork; Marshall et al. 1995).
13 Estuarine rearing is generally more important to salmonids that outmigrate as subyearlings.
14 Represents known spawning distribution of Nooksack Bull Trout/Dolly Varden (SASI 1997)
15 Gregg Dunphy, personal communication to Ned Currence (1999)
16 WDFW Spawner survey database, 1990-1999
17 Personal communication by Doug Huddel to Ned Currence, 2000.